



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Gerald Gorman Former Ulster County Legislature Minority Leader Dies

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Dr. Gerald Gorman, a former Kingston, New York physician and Ulster County Legislator, died on Friday, August 25, 2006, in his home in Annapolis, Maryland. The cause of death was pneumonia, resulting from advanced Parkinson disease.

Dr. Gorman was born in Staten Island in 1920 to Nicholas and Mary Gorman, Irish immigrants who imbued in their four children the importance of education and hard work. Gorman graduated from St. Peter's High School in 1937 and received a B.S. from Manhattan College in 1941. Although he had several offers of employment, including work as an Assistant Manager at Radio City Music Hall, Gorman set his sights on medicine.

In 1944, he graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine. After interning for one year at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, Gorman joined the Navy in 1945, serving as a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve Medical Corps, aboard the U.S.S. Fremont, a troop carrier stationed in the Pacific. In addition to his role as physician aboard the carrier, Gorman devoted significant energy to help organize entertainment for the troops.

In 1947, Gorman began a four-year residency in surgery at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, where he was Chief Resident of the Third Surgical Division. In 1952, he completed a one-year residency in thoracic surgery at the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Bronx, New York, and went on to serve two years at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. He was admitted to the American Board of Surgery in 1952.

In 1954, Gorman began a private surgical practice in Kingston, New York, where he worked for nearly 25 years. Gorman also pursued a range of interests outside of surgery. In 1963 to 1964, he served as President of the Ulster County Chapter of the American Cancer Society and in 1965 to 1966, as President of the Ulster County Division of the Mid-Hudson Philharmonic. On December 17, 1975, New York State Governor Hugh Carey appointed Gorman a member of the College Council for the State University College at New Paltz. He became Chair of the College Council from 1978 until 1984. Gorman was also active in other local civic groups, including the Kingston Kiwanis Club and Ulster County Chamber of Commerce. He earned his private pilot's license in 1975.

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Never forgetting his parents' humble beginnings as immigrants to the United States in search of a better life, Gorman's personal, professional and civic life was infused with a lifelong respect for learning and achievement, coupled with a belief in the rights, wisdoms and virtues of the common citizen. These values propelled his subsequent decision to seek and hold public office, in addition to providing a private surgical practice. From 1965 to 1966, Gorman served as Chairman of the Kingston City Democratic Organization and from 1967 to 1968 as Chairman of the Ulster County Democratic Organization. In 1970, Gorman was elected to the Ulster County Legislature, where he served as Minority Leader from 1972 to 1975. Running in a predominately Republican district, Gorman made unsuccessful bids for County Coroner in 1965 and for State Assembly in 1968, losing both races by small margins.

In 1979, Dr. Gorman retired from private practice and joined the New York Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, where he worked as a medical consultant for two years. In 1988, Dr. Gorman moved to Wilmington North Carolina, where he became active in the Adult Scholars Leadership Program sponsored by University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

In 2003, Gorman moved to Annapolis, Maryland, where he became an active Member of an Anne Arundel County Parkinson support group. He will be remembered among other things for his belief in personal significance and individual decision-making, his intrepid willingness to try new challenges, his keen sense of humor, the quickness with which he found connections with new acquaintances, and his love of music, particularly his strong affinity for the depth and scale of feeling that is expressed in opera.

His marriage to Dr. Lorraine Gorman lasted 25 years and produced five children. Survivors include his long-term and devoted companion, Ms. Rosemary Sheppard of Annapolis, Maryland, and his five children, Mary K. Gorman of Belmont, Vermont, Sheila A. Gorman of Hanover, New Hampshire, John N. Gorman of Rhinebeck, New York, Gerald P. Gorman, Jr. of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Teresa A. Gorman of Washington, D.C, and six grandchildren.

Being a man of science, Dr. Gorman donated his remains to the Maryland Anatomy Board to assist in the training of future physicians and to Johns Hopkins University. Donations in lieu of flowers should be sent to the: Anne Arundel County Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, PO Box 893, Severna Park, MD 21146.